

National Recreational Trails Federal Program

FY2008 Request: \$850,000
Reference No: 6854

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Transportation

Location: Statewide

Contact: Nico Bus

House District: Statewide

Contact Phone: (907)465-2406

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2007 - 06/30/2009

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Alaskans rely on trails for recreation, subsistence, and travel between communities. These trails need maintenance to ensure safe passage and to ensure that they remain open and available for use. Funds are distributed by 80-10 matching grants for recreational trail and trailhead development and maintenance, and for education programs relating to trail safety and environmental protection. Grants are awarded to organizations, agencies and local governments.

Funding:	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$850,000	\$895,000	\$895,000	\$895,000	\$895,000	\$895,000	\$5,325,000
Total:	\$850,000	\$895,000	\$895,000	\$895,000	\$895,000	\$895,000	\$5,325,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

- SLA06/CH82 - \$695,000
- FSSLA05/CH3 - \$695,000
- SLA03/CH82 - \$695,000
- SSSLA01/CH1 - \$695,000
- SLA01/CH61 - \$710,000
- SLA00/CH135 - \$710,000

The first recreational trails grant funds, originally called Symms Grants, were available in 1993 through the Intermodal Transportation Efficiency Act. Alaska received \$110,000. The program has subsequently been funded in slowly increasing amounts each year from 1996 to the present.

Project Description/Justification:

As more and more residents and visitors turn to Alaska's vast trail system for recreation, subsistence and basic transportation between communities, the need for a more extensive and well-maintained trail system continues to grow. The growing population is also putting development pressure on the existing trail system and many trails are being lost as property is subdivided or sold to private owners. We can assist in slowing the loss of our existing trail system through this granting program and will sustain and improve that system as well.

State funds are saved by the availability of these federal grant funds for development and maintenance of Alaska's public recreational trails. Public safety is improved by having well maintained trails. Trespass is reduced by securing trail easements with grant funds. Search and rescue costs are reduced by having well marked and maintained trails that are easy to follow. Because this is a matching grant program, grantees provide cash, labor and equipment to match at least 20 percent of grant funds, effectively stretching state funds. Public recreational trails contribute to Alaska's economy by

providing construction and maintenance jobs, attracting tourists and visitors, and by stimulating the business of outfitters, guides and tour companies. In addition, the Recreational Trails Program ensures that:

- Grantees obtain legal access
- Projects are consistent with Federal, State and local land use plans
- Social and economic impacts are analyzed
- Archeological and Historical resources are protected
- The project is analyzed for any impact on threatened or endangered species
- The project is analyzed for any impact on fish and wildlife
- The project is analyzed for its affect on wetlands, flood plains and bodies of water
- Water quality is maintained
- Hazardous waste is checked for and identified
- Air quality is checked
- The noise resulting from the project is analyzed
- There is public involvement

Why is this Project Needed Now: Alaska’s trails are gradually being lost due to community expansion and development pressure. The grant program provides an opportunity to establish new trails and reserve existing recreational access throughout the state.

The following Recreational Trail Projects have been approved for FFY06. Park & Outdoor Recreation is in the process of completing the remainder of FFY06 projects.

	Recreational Trails Grants Awarded in FY 06	
Applicant Name	Project Title	Award
Sheldon Jackson College	Wilderness Educator Training and Certification	\$31,200
Alaska Trails	Educational Signage & Kiosk Program in Far North Bicentennial Park	\$22,425
Alaska Trails	Alaska Trail Steward Training Program: Phase two, Advanced Modules	\$37,205
Peninsula Sled Dog & Racing Association	Kenai Peninsula Sled Dog Winter Trail Grooming	\$4,999
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Hatcher Pass Multiple Purpose Trails	\$35,242
City & Borough of Juneau - Engineering Dept	Duck Creek Greenway Trail Phase I	\$46,746
DPOR - Kodiak	Piedmont Point Trail Safety & Rehabilitation Project, Phase I	\$26,900
Fairbanks North Star Borough - Dept. of Parks & Rec.	Tanana Lakes Nature Trail	\$50,000
DPOR - statewide	SAGA	\$244,506
DPOR - Ketchikan	Waterfall View Lake Link	\$7,175
DPOR - Ketchikan	Campground Link Trail	\$6,845

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Fairbanks Dog Park, Inc.	West Dog Park Loop Trail	\$42,300
Trapper Creek Homeowners Association Inc.	Mile 120 Trail Repair Project	\$49,400
Homer Soil & Water Conservation District	Trail Signage within the Ninilchik River and Deep Creek Watersheds	\$15,925
Youth Restoration Corps	Resurrection Creek Trail Maintenance	\$50,000
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge - USFWS	Dechanlee Trail Restoration	\$21,200
City of Skagway	City of Skagway Trails Signage Project	\$3,607
DPOR - Northern	Stiles Creek Trail Re-route	\$14,902
DPOR - Northern	Compeau (Colorado) Ridge Sustainable Trail Construction	\$23,406

The following recreational trail grants were closed in FY06:

	FY06 Completed Recreational Trail Grants	
Applicant Name	Project Title	Award
Sitka Trail Works	Baranof lake Trail	\$9,957.00
Valley Health Communities	Mat-Su snowmobile Safety Seminars	\$800.00
Northern Area Parks	Eagle Trail & Interpretation	\$8,450.00
BAART	Avalanche Hazard Awareness	\$7,750.00
Kenai Peninsula Borough	Jacobs Ladder	\$30,000.00
City of Kotlik	Trail Marking	\$5,314.04
Southeast Parks-Ketchikan	Hollow Cedar Beach	\$8,720.00
Sitka's Cancer Survivors Society	Path of Hope	\$9,999.00
Copper Valley	Glennallen Trails project	\$10,600.00
City of North Pole	Beaver Springs	\$13,600.00
Pearl Creek Nordic Community	Pearl Creek & Scarland Ski Trail	\$6,100.00
Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land & Water	Trail Easement FY03	\$78,000.00
City of White Mountain	White Mountain Trail Improvements	\$28,842.73
National Park Service	Winner Creek	\$19,600.00
Peninsula Sled Dog Racing Association	Kenai Pen Sled Dog Winter Trail	\$4,885.00
Southeast Area Parks	Channel Islands Water Trail	\$26,244.00
Northern Area Parks	Granite Torso	\$29,455.00
Talkeetna Elementary School	Talkeetna Elementary	\$4,631.00
Northern Area Parks	Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail	\$25,000.00
City of Anderson	Riverside Park Recreational Trail Phase 2	\$20,000.00

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Trapper Creek Homeowner	Lake September Trail	\$17,100.00
City of Cordova	Orca Inlet Recreational Wayside	\$24,160.00
Parks Director's Office	Easement Recording Phase 111	\$90,000.00
Mat-Su state Parks Citizens' Advisory Board	Hatcher Pass	\$30,000.00
Northern Area Parks	Quartz Lake Trail	\$22,110.00
Fairbanks Dog Park	Animal Shelter-Wilbur St. Trail	\$28,800.00
Iditarod Trailblazers Knik Chapter	Vi Reddington Fish Creek	\$20,000.00
Willow Trail Committee	Willow Winter Carnival Race Trail	\$3,000.00
Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers	Groomer Purchase	\$30,000.00
Cooper Basin 300 INC.	Cooper Basin 300	\$5,775.38
City of Barrow	Istquaq Lagoon Trail	\$30,000.00
The Anchorage Ski Club	Rendezvous Peak Trail & Trailhead	\$30,000.00
Division of Mining, Land & Water	Trail Easement FY02	\$24,160.00
Chugach Area Parks	Chugach Parks-Purchase of Snowmobile	\$9,240.00
Mat Su Area Parks	Nancy Lake SRA Trail Crew	\$7,704.00
Native Village of Tancross	Mansfield Trail Upgrade	\$22,238.00
Iditarod National History Inc	Iditarod Trail	\$28,770.00
Northern Area Parks	Quartz Lake Trail	\$10,324.00
Northern Area Parks	Granite torso Trail Fire Rehabilitation	\$9,370.00

Alaska Trails Initiative

Chugach National Forest	Russian River Anglers Trail Proposal	\$398,928
Chugach National Forest	Iditarod National Historic Trail Seward to Girdwood	\$274,205
Chugach State Park	Arctic Valley Trails	\$101,304
Eaglecrest Ski Area	Juneau Nordic Trails	\$92,674
Mat-Su Borough	Hatcher Pass Trails	\$176,825
DPOR - Kodiak	Kodiak Trails	\$302,156
Iditarod Trail Committee	Iditarod Trail Committee, Trail Enhancement Project	\$450,240
Sitka Trail Works, Inc.	Sitka Trail Works	\$422,100
Municipality of Anchorage, Girdwood Parks & Recreational Dept., Girdwood Trails Committee	Girdwood Trails	\$97,552
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	State of Alaska Wildlife Trails	\$232,201
Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve	Crystalline Hills Trailhead	\$50,183
Trail Mix, Inc.	Under Thunder Pathway	\$93,800
Trail Mix, Inc.	Perseverance Trail	\$691,129

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Sitka Trail Works, Inc.	World War II Causeway	\$140,700
Western Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America	Matanuska Susitna Gorsuch Trails	\$28,000

Specific Spending Detail:

The grant amount will be spent as follows: 7% for program administration; 5% for education; and of the remainder, 30% is available for non-motorized trails project, 30% for motorized trail projects, and 40% for projects with both motorized and non-motorized trail uses.

Line Item Expenditures:

Personal Services	\$ 70.0	State Park staff performing grant and contract administration.
Travel	\$ 10.0	Park staff and Board travel for evaluations and inspections.
Grants		\$770.0

Project Support: Dozens of Alaska communities, agencies and trail user groups have received grants.

Some of the communities that have received grants include: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, City of Wasilla, Native Village of Fort Yukon, City of Kotlik, City of Homer, City of Barrow, City of Galena, City of Cordova, City of Aleknagik and the Circle Village Council.

Some of the user groups include: Boy Scouts, Trail Mix Inc., Fairbanks Snow Travelers, Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers, Fairbanks Nordic Ski Club, Peninsula Sled Dog Racing Association, Sitka Recreational Riders, Norton Sound Sled Dog Club, Alaska Botanical Gardens and the Goldstream Valley Trail Users Assn.

Project Opposition: None

State Match Required: No state match. Grantees are required to provide a minimum of 10% match. The actual match often reaches 50%.